

DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

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ACTION EA-11

INFO OCT-01 SS-20 DODE-00 PM-04 AID-12 NSCE-00 NSC-10
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R 010500Z SEP 70

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5292

INFO AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 14188

LIMDIS

KATHMANDU EYES ONLY FOR AMB, BUNKER

SUBJ: COMMENTS OF SENATORS YOUNG AND MCGOVERN ON VIETNAM POLL

REF: STATE 141716

1. ALTHOUGH FIGURES DO NOT JIBE, BEST MISSION GUESS IS POLL CITED BY SENATORS YOUNG AND MCGOVERN IS PACIFICATION ATTITUDE ANALYSIS SYSTEM (PAAS) POLL FOR MAY OR JUNE WHICH MIGHT HAVE BEEN WARPED TO FIT SENATOR YOUNG'S INTERPRETATION. PAAS IS DESIGNED AS MANAGEMENT TOOL FOR CORDS ON TRENDS IN RURAL VIETNAMESE ATTITUDES TOWARDS PACIFICATION. RESULTS OF PAAS GENERALLY CORRELATE WELL WITH INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES, BUT SYSTEM NOT IN OPERATION LONG ENOUGH FULLY VALIDATE FINDINGS. DATA NOT CLASSIFIED, BUT BECAUSE OF LIMITATIONS OF THESE POLLS AND OF POLITICAL SENSITIVITY TO GVN IT NECESSARY INFORMATION BE CLOSELY HELD.

2. IN MAY AND JUNE PAAS POLLS PEOPLE WERE ASKED WHETHER THEY WERE AWARE OF PRESIDENT NIXON'S ANNOUNCEMENT THAT 150,000 MORE US TROOPS WILL BE WITHDRAWN WITHIN ONE MORE YEAR. ALL BUT 29.8 PERCENT IN MAY AND 39.9 IN JUNE AWARE OF ANNOUNCEMENT. WHEN THOSE WHO KNEW OF THIS DECISION WERE ASKED WHY THEY THOUGHT IT WAS MADE, REASONS GIVEN BY MOST WERE A) ARVN NOW ABLE TO BEAR BURDEN OF WAR (38.2 AND 32.0 AND B) TO CARRY OUT POLICY OF VIETNAMIZATION (KQMU AND 15.4). WHEN ASKED WHETHER THIS WISE

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MOVE OR UNWISE MOVE HEAVY MAJORITY SAID WISE (58.6 AND 68.7)
MAIN REASONS GIVEN FOR ANSWER IT WAS WISE MOVE WERE A) TAKES
AWAY IMPORTANT PROPAGANDA ASSET OF VC (29.9 AND 35.1), B)
PROMOTES VIETNAMIZATION (13.7 AND 21.2), C) WILL HELP PRODUCE
RESULTS IN PEACE TALKS (11.2 AND 20.6, AND D) WITHDRAWAL WILL
REDUCE FIGHTING AND KILLING IN VIET-NAM (18.9 AND 9.1).

3. WE HAVE ALSO BEEN QUERIED BY AP ON POLL AS CITED BY
SENATOR MCGOVERN. ALTHOUGH INTERPRETATION BY TWO SENATORS
IS NOT SUBSTANTIATED BY POLL QUESTIONS AND RESULTS, WE
ARE FOLLOWING USG POLICY ON OVERSEAS POLLS (NOT ORDER FROM
AMBASSADOR BUNKER) BY NOT RELEASING RESULTS OF THIS OR ANY
OTHER POLLS ON VIETNAMESE ATTITUDES. TO MAKE EXCEPTION WOULD
ONLY HEIGHTEN CONTROVERSY, POSSIBLY COMPROMISE OUR ABILITY TO
CONDUCT SUCH POLLS IN VIET NAM, AND OPEN OURSELVES TO CONTINUED
REQUESTS FOR PUBLIC RELEASE IN FUTURE.

4. IF QUERIED FURTHER BY PRESS HERE, WE WILL NOTE STANDING USG
POLICY THAT OVERSEAS ATTITUDE POLLS ARE MANAGEMENT TOOLS INTENDED
FOR INTERNAL USE TO ASSIST PLANNING, THAT WE DO NOT RELEASE
RESULTS OF SUCH POLLS (IRRESPECTIVE WHETHER RESULTS FAVORABLE
TO USG INTEREST OR NOT), AND THAT THEREFORE WE CANNOT CONFIRM
STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO TWO SENATORS.
BERGER

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OSD/P:LTC. TOCCI(PHONE)
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 141716

LIMDIS

JOINT STATE-AID-DEFENSE-USIA MESSAGE

1. SENATOR MCGOVERN ALLEGED ON AUGUST 23 "ISSUES AND ANSWERS" ABC TV PROGRAM THAT A POLL CONDUCTED IN VIETNAM BY THE U.S. MILITARY COMMAND SHOWS THAT 65 PERCENT OF THE PEOPLE WANT U.S. TROOPS OUT OF VIETNAM.

2. SEN. MCGOVERN'S REMARK APPEARS TO REFER BACK TO STATEMENTS MADE ON THE SENATE FLOOR JULY 24 AND 31 BY SENATOR YOUNG (D-OHIO). ON JULY 31 SEN. YOUNG SAID IN PART:

"...A RECENT SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE U.S. MILITARY COMMAND IN SOUTH VIETNAM, SHOWS THAT 65 PERCENT OF ALL PEOPLE IN THE COUNTRYSIDE WANT ALL AMERICANS OUT OF THEIR COUNTRY. THIS SURVEY HAS BEEN SUPPRESSED ALLEGEDLY ON ORDER FROM AMBASSADOR ELLSWORTH BUNKER AND TOP ARMY OFFICIALS ENJOYING THE GOOD LIFE IN SAIGON. THE AMERICAN BROADCASTING COMPANY REPORTED THAT 30

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PERCENT OF THOSE SURVEYED HAD NO OPINION AND ONLY 5 PERCENT, MOSTLY IN SAIGON, WANTED AMERICAN TO STAY.

3. WE HAVE REVIEWED RECENT SAIGON OPINION SURVEYS BY JUSPAO CONTRACTOR CENTER FOR VIETNAMESE STUDIES AVAILABLE HERE, AS WELL AS 'CORDS' MONTHLY PACIFICATION ATTITUDE SYSTEM (PAAS) SURVEYS AND CAN FIND NOTHING REMOTELY SIMILAR TO POLL TO WHICH SENATORS REFER.

4. HOWEVER, IT OCCURS TO US THAT A PROVINCE OR REGION-WIDE SURVEY BY ELEMENTS OF THE CORDS PSG RURAL SURVEY PROGRAM MIGHT HAVE PRODUCED RESULTS THAT COULD PURPORT TO REFLECT PACIFIST SENTIMENT ALONG LINES SENATORS INDICATE. SUCH A POLL WOULD NOT NECESSARILY HAVE BEEN REPORTED TO WASHINGTON.

5. REQUEST YOU DETERMINE WHETHER THERE WAS A SURVEY WHICH COULD HAVE LENT ITSELF TO INTERPRETATION MADE BY SENATORS. APPRECIATE CABLE REPLY SOONEST. IF THERE WAS SUCH A SURVEY, PLEASE SUPPLY TEXT OF QUESTION, REASON FOR POSING IT AND CIRCUMSTANCES OF RELEASE TO ABC.

6. IF ANY POLL DID PRODUCE SURPRISING RESULT ALLEGED BY SENATORS, MISSION SHOULD COMMENT.

7. WE ARE RESPONDING TO CONGRESSIONAL AND PUBLIC INQUIRIES TO THE EFFECT THAT WE KNOW OF NO SUCH POLL BUT ARE CHECKING. JOHNSON

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